

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electric power steering device comprising:

a steering assist electric motor including a ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft;

a speed reduction mechanism for transmitting rotation of the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft of the electric motor to a steering mechanism while reducing a ~~rotation~~ rotational speed of the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft, the speed reduction mechanism including an input shaft, the input shaft and the rotational shaft being formed in one piece from a single member and jointly forming a unitary shaft; and

a rotor unit,

wherein:

the electric motor includes a motor housing, a stator fixed to the motor housing, a rotor co-rotatable with the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft, and rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle of the rotor;

the rotation angle detecting means includes a stationary portion fixed to the motor housing, and a movable portion co-rotatable with the rotor;

the rotor includes a rotor body, and a rotor magnet attached to the rotor body in a co-rotatable manner, the rotor body including an outer tubular portion to which the rotor magnet is fixed, the rotor body including a shaft portion provided coaxially with the outer tubular portion and retaining the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means, the rotor body including a connection portion which connects the outer tubular portion and the shaft portion, the shaft portion having a concave portion, an end of the unitary shaft being fitted in the concave portion; and

the rotor unit includes the rotor and the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means, the rotor unit being provided as a subassembly of the electric motor.

Claim 2 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means includes a reference portion serving as a reference for defining magnetized portions of the rotor magnet.

Claim 3 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the reference portion serves as a reference to be employed for magnetizing a magnetizable member as a production intermediate member for the rotor magnet.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 2, wherein the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means has an annular shape, and the reference portion includes projections provided on an outer periphery of the movable portion.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer tubular portion, the shaft portion and the connection portion are formed integrally.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rotor magnet has a tubular shape, and the outer tubular portion has a first engagement portion on an outer peripheral surface thereof for engagement with the rotor magnet fitted around the outer tubular portion.

Claim 7 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 6, wherein the shaft portion has a first end portion disposed in the outer tubular portion, and a second end portion axially projecting outside the outer tubular portion, the first end portion of the shaft portion is connected to the outer tubular portion via the connection portion, and the second end portion of the shaft portion has a second engagement portion for engagement with the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 7, wherein

the first end portion of the shaft portion has a coupling portion for coupling the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft of the electric motor to the shaft portion.

Claim 9 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 1, wherein
the motor housing includes a tubular body having first and second ends and an opening provided at the first end, and an end cover attached to the first end of the body thereof to close the opening at the first end, and
the stationary portion of the rotation angle detecting means is fixed to the end cover.

Claim 10 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 9, wherein
an attachment member is provided for attaching the end cover to the first end of the motor housing body in a manner such that a position of the end cover is adjustable circumferentially of the motor housing body.

Claim 11 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 10, wherein
the attachment member includes a screw which is screwed into a screw hole formed in the motor housing body through a screw insertion hole formed in the end cover,
the end cover is guided to be displaced circumferentially of the motor housing body by cooperation of the screw insertion hole and the screw slightly screwed into the screw hole.

Claim 12 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 11, wherein
the end cover has a center in alignment with a center of the motor housing body,
the screw insertion hole has an arcuate shape defined about the center of the end cover,
and
the stationary portion of the rotation angle detecting means has an annular shape defined about the center of the end cover.

Claim 13 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 9, wherein

an annular power supply member for power supply to the stator is attached to the first end of the motor housing body, and

the rotation angle detecting means is disposed radially inward of the power supply member.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the speed reduction mechanism includes a driving gear and an input shaft co-rotatably provided with the driving gear, and

the input shaft of the speed reduction mechanism and the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft of the electric motor are provided unitarily as a unitary shaft.

Claim 15 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 14, wherein

the unitary shaft includes a first end portion, a second end portion, and an intermediate portion between the first and second end portions, and

the intermediate portion of the unitary shaft is supported by a combination angular ball bearing.

Claim 16 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 15, wherein

the combination angular ball bearing includes a pair of combined angular ball bearings, and

the pair of combined angular ball bearings are arranged in back-to-back relation.

Claim 17 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 15, wherein

the unitary shaft is supported only by a bearing supporting the first end portion thereof and the combination angular ball bearing supporting the intermediate portion thereof.

Claim 18 (original): An electric power steering device as set forth in claim 17, wherein

the bearing supporting the first end portion comprises a deep groove ball bearing.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): An electric power steering device comprising:

a steering assist electric motor including a ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft;

a speed reduction mechanism for transmitting rotation of the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft of the electric motor to a steering mechanism while reducing a ~~rotation~~ rotational speed of the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft, the speed reduction mechanism including an input shaft, the input shaft and the rotational shaft being formed in one piece from a single member and jointly forming a unitary shaft; and

a rotor unit,

wherein:

the electric motor includes a motor housing, a stator fixed to the motor housing, a rotor co-rotatable with the ~~rotation~~ rotational shaft, and rotation angle detecting means for detecting a rotation angle of the rotor;

the rotation angle detecting means includes a stationary portion fixed to the motor housing, and a movable portion co-rotatable with the rotor;

the rotor includes a rotor body, and a rotor magnet attached to the rotor body in a co-rotatable manner, the rotor body including an outer tubular portion to which the rotor magnet is fixed, the rotor body including a shaft portion provided coaxially with the outer tubular portion and retaining the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means, the rotor body including a connection portion which connects the outer tubular portion and the shaft portion, the shaft portion having a concave portion, an end of the unitary shaft being fitted in the concave portion;

the rotor unit includes the rotor and the movable portion of the rotation angle detecting means, the rotor unit being provided as a subassembly of the electric motor; and

the motor housing includes a tubular body, an opening and an end cover, the tubular body having a first end and a second end, the opening being provided at the first end, the end cover being attached to the first end of the body to close the opening at the first end, the stationary portion of the rotation angle detecting means being fixed to the end cover; and

the first end is far from the speed reduction mechanism relatively and the second end is close to the speed reduction mechanism relatively.

Claim 22 (new): The electric power steering device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the end of the unitary shaft is press-fitted in the concave portion.

Claim 23 (new): The electric power steering device as set forth in claim 21, wherein the end of the unitary shaft is press-fitted in the concave portion.